

Message Text

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EXDIS-HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. MOROCCO'S DESIGNS ON SPANISH SAHARA

IN RESPONSE TO REPORTS FROM MADRID THAT MOROCCO IS PREPAR-
ING TO TAKE THE SPANISH SAHARA BY FORCE, EMBASSY RABAT
STATES IT HAS NO CLEAR INDICATORS OF AN IMMINENT MILITARY
MOVE. ON THE OTHER HAND:

--SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCES SAY THE MOROCCANS HAVE
JUST COMPLETED A MAJOR STOCKPILING OF WEAPONS IN
THE SOUTHERN ZONE, AND TRUCK OWNERS IN THE CASA-
BLANCA AREA HAVE BEEN TOLD THEIR VEHICLES MAY BE
NEEDED TO TRANSPORT MATERIALS SOUTHWARD.

--A MOROCCAN FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL SAID HE
DOUBTED THE DIPLOMATIC OUTCOME OF THE CONFLICT
WOULD BE FAVORABLE TO MOROCCO AND NOTED THE DESIRE

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OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO MOVE AGAINST THE

SPANISH IMMEDIATELY BEFORE AN ICJ OPINION OR AN
UNGA RESOLUTION ON THE DISPUTE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THOUGH MILITARY ACTION PRIOR TO
COMPLETION OF THE ICJ/UNGA PROCESSES WOULD BE A
DEPARTURE FROM PAST THINKING, MOROCCO MAY CONSIDER
A SURPRISE ATTACK AS THE BEST WAY TO GAIN GROUND
AGAINST SUPERIOR SPANISH FORCES. (SECRET) MADRID
6842, 10/ (EXDIS); RABAT 4768, 10/3 (EXDIS).

2. PORTUGAL: NAVY SUPPORTS AZEVEDO'S EFFORTS TO
RESTORE ORDER

THE NAVY ASSEMBLY VOTED OCTOBER 3 TO SUPPORT PRIME
MINISTER AZEVEDO'S EFFORTS TO REESTABLISH LAW AND
ORDER. THE NAVY ACTED AFTER LOYALIST PARATROOPERS
WERE DISPATCHED TO PROTECT A SOUTHERN AIRBASE
AGAINST LEFTIST DEMONSTRATORS. IN OTHER DEVELOP-
MENTS:

--THE LOCAL PRESS CARRIED REPORTS THAT PRIME
MINISTER WILSON AND FOREIGN MINISTER CALLAGHAN
STRONGLY DEFENDED MARIO SOARES AGAINST CRITICISM
FROM THE LEFT WING OF THE LABOUR PARTY AT ITS
CONVENTION IN BLACKPOOL.

--POPULAR INTEREST IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
HAS HEIGHTENED SINCE THE RETURN OF THE COM-
MUNISTS TO THE DEBATES, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY
THAT THE CONSTITUTION WILL BE APPROVED BEFORE
THE DECEMBER 5 DEADLINE. (CONFIDENTIAL)
LISBON 5859; LISBON 5839; UPI 160, 10/3.

3. ANGOLA: MPLA BITES OFF MORE THAN IT CAN CHEW

CONSULATE LUANDA POSTULATES THAT THE MPLA HAS SUFFER-
ED SETBACKS RECENTLY BECAUSE IT IS OVEREXTENDED AND
CANNOT MUSTER SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO MOUNT MAJOR
OFFENSIVES AGAINST THE FNLA AND UNITA. THE CONSULATE
ALSO REPORTS SPECULATION THAT THE FNLA MAY ATTEMPT
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TO:

--TAKE LUANDA BEFORE INDEPENDENCE DAY TO
INSURE POWER WILL NOT BE TURNED OVER TO THE
MPLA; OR,

--SURROUND THE MPLA IN THE CAPITAL AND CUT
THEM OFF FROM THE HINTERLAND, THEREBY DENYING

THE MPLA EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER MUCH OF THE COUNTRY.

CONSUL'S COMMENT: I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF, BEFORE ABANDONING PLANS FOR A TAKEOVER ON NOVEMBER 11, THE MPLA WERE TO TRY A LAST ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE BY HITTING THE FNLA IN THE NORTH AND MAKING A CONCERTED EFFORT TO CAPTURE UNITA-HELD NOVA LISBOA. (CONFIDENTIAL) LUANDA 464, 10/3.

4. THAILAND: COMMUNIST INSURGENCY A GROWING THREAT

EMBASSY BANGKOK, IN AN ANALYSIS OF INSURGENCY IN THAILAND, REPORTS THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THAILAND (CPT), WITH SOME DEGREE OF CONTROL OVER 4 MILLION THAI, CONTINUES TO PURSUE A PROTRACTED STRUGGLE THROUGH ARMED REBELLION AND VIOLENCE. THE EMBASSY OBSERVES:

--THROUGH SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS AGAINST "HARD" TARGET INSTALLATIONS, THE CPT MAY BEGIN TO GAIN MOMENTUM AND CONTROL OVER MORE TERRITORY AND PEOPLE.

--THE RTG HAS NOT DEVELOPED A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL PLAN TO COUNTER THE INSURGENCY.

CONSULATE SONGKHLA REPORTS THAT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH THAILAND IS PARTICULARLY SERIOUS. GOVERNMENTAL PARALYSIS HAS LEAD TO A STEADILY WORSENING SECURITY SITUATION, ACCENTUATED BY GROWING CPT STRENGTH AND
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AUDACITY AND INCREASED ACTIVITY BY MUSLIM SEPARATISTS AND MALAYSIAN COMMUNISTS.
(SECRET) BANGKOK 20942; (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 20606,
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